

NRT

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21 November 1969

Chrono

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
Programs Evaluation
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : BOB and the NRP

1. In connection with BOB preparations to derive a Bureau position on NRP budget levels for FY 1971, Charlie Sorrels, the Bureau's examiner of the NRO account, has paid recent visits to the Agency to discuss with [redacted] and others the nature of requirements for overhead imagery and especially those for a near-real-time (NRT) system.

2. In the course of the discussions, Sorrels made no bones of the fact that he does not see an urgent need for NRT. Much time was spent in attempting to show him the importance of timeliness of information and to describe the various kinds of international crises likely to occur along with their impact on intelligence activity. We found Sorrels quite interested in the [redacted]

[redacted] as a cheap alternative to the NRT. We were particularly interested in Sorrels' emphasis on [redacted] since it was only an NRO study proposal, the system would have had only very limited capabilities, and further consideration of it was put off at the September EXCOM meeting at [redacted] direction.

3. Sorrels has concluded that the NRT system combined with [redacted] results in an overkill in target surveillance.

NRO review(s)
completed.

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He is convinced that the total take will far exceed needs; to which he adds a concern about expense. He believes apparently that the intelligence people over-estimate the value of timeliness of information.

4. In view of Sorrels' reactions and statements, we think it a good guess that BOB will endorse any move to stretch out or reduce the effort on NRT. There could be an effort by BOB to reopen the [] issue with the suggestion that it be an intermediate substitute for NRT. It, of course, remains possible that spears will once again be thrown at []

[]
Deputy Director of Planning,
Programming and Budgeting

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